



Meeting Minutes

Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

Attendance	DATE	Tuesday, February 4, 2025			
	TIME	1:00 PM			
	METHOD	Zoom/Teleconference Conference line #: (669) 219-2599 Meeting ID# 202 331 8963			
	RECORDER	Loren Borst			
Appointed Voting Member Attendance					
Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present
Governor Joe Lombardo - Chair	X	Mitchell Fox	X	Truckee Meadows Fire	VACANT
Sheriff Kevin McMahill – Vice-Chair	X	Chief Fernando Grey	X	George Togliatti	X
Col. Kyle Cerfoglio	X	Dr. Ikram Khan	ABS	Rosemary Vassiliadis	X
Sheriff Darin Balaam	X	Clark County Fire	VACANT	Patricia Wade	X
Spencer Evans	ABS	Harriett Vegas	ABS	Bill Welch	X
Todd Fasulo	X	Richard Perkins	X		
Appointed Non-Voting Member Attendance					
Karen Burke	X	Christopher Ipsen	X	Adam Miller	X
VACANT	X	Brett Compston	X		
Skip Daly	ABS	P.K. O'Neill	ABS		
Legal and Support Staff Attendance					
Samantha Ladich	X	Loren Borst	X		

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Governor Lombardo called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Loren Borst, Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM/HS). Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Governor Lombardo, motioned to approve the December 16, 2024 Commission meeting minutes. Mitch Fox, Nevada Broadcasting Association, moved to approve the minutes, Fernando Grey, Las Vegas Rescue Fire Chief, seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

No discussion was presented. All were in favor with no opposition, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. STATEWIDE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) COMPLIANCE REPORT

Brett Compston, DEM/HS, reported the NIMS Compliance across the state for Quarter 4, 2024, noting that at this time there were 8,027 participants through the different courses offered by FEMA, which is approximately 2,000 more than in the prior quarter. Chief Compston noted he did not have a reason as to why there was an increase in numbers.

5. REPORT ON FUEL PIPELINE LOSS OF POWER IN SOUTHERN NEVADA

Brett Compston informed the Commission that on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, DEM/HS was notified that the Colton Facility, which powers the pumps that push fuel uphill through the Kinder Morgan pipeline to Las Vegas would be out for approximately a day. Chief Compston indicated that at that time, the Department of Agriculture initiated a bulk fuel capacity check and identified that there was approximately two to three days of regular gas, and one day of premium stored in southern Nevada. Chief Compston explained that at that point, it was not determined to be a high risk that the power would be out long term, and as such, DEM/HS did not initiate action. Chief Compston indicated that on Thursday, 1/9 at 10:30 a.m., DEM/HS was notified that power would be out for an extended period of time, with the earliest return predicted for Sunday, 1/12, which would be well beyond the bulk fuel capacity in the Las Vegas valley. The Chief explained that at that point, DEM/HS initiated action between the Department of Agriculture, the Governor's Office of Energy, DEM/HS, and the Governor's Office. Chief Compston noted that the biggest concern was transparent and factual messaging without inducing panic buying of gas. Chief Compston discussed briefing the governor and engaging with California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and Southern California (SoCal) Edison for assistance in returning power to the Colton Facility, as well as a joint state and county discussion regarding the implications, draft declarations and communications. Chief Compston noted that the first set of messaging began that day. Chief Compston next indicated that at approximately 6:30 p.m. DEM/HS was notified that Cal OES and SoCal Edison had reached an agreement to provide mitigation efforts at the Colton Facility, and power would be restored overnight. Chief Compston noted that power was restored at approximately 2:30 a.m. on the 10th, and fuel started flowing into the Las Vegas Valley sometime in the mid-morning. Chief Compston discussed lessons learned from the Division's perspective, including synchronizing timely and transparent messaging matters, ensuring that the messaging between county and state does not conflict, and that pre-scripting declarations related to emergencies are an essential item to have in place. The Chief explained that in terms of strategic implications, California has reached out to the Army Corps of Engineers to look at redundant power for the Colton Facility and noted that DEM/HS did offer both fire strike and security strike teams from the state of Nevada to

support retaining power at the Colton Facility. The Chief indicated that neither of those offers was accepted by the state of California, who provided the resources to ensure the continuity of power at the facility and keep fuel flowing. The Chief suggested a long-term strategy of looking at strategic reserve fuels for the state of Nevada.

Chief Billy Samuels, Clark County Fire Department, indicated that when the notification was received of a shutdown, Clark County Fire Department activated that Multi Agency Coordination Center and notified all valley-wide stakeholders. Chief Samuels discussed the management objectives needing to be accomplished: safety of residents and visitors, public responders, and all affected in the interruption, development of contingencies to continue the service of responders and critical infrastructure providers, deliver timely and accurate information to the providers and the public, and develop short-term and long-term contingency plans for supply chain interruptions. Chief Samuels discussed some of the unforeseen cascading effects from the contingency plans, including things like housing, food, and the ability to work from home, or remotely, and attending school, noting that these were some of the issues that had occurred in 2023 and were expected to be similar in 2025. Chief Samuels informed the Commission of the after-action topics following the 2023 incident, including: the notification timeline from the source, which was receipt of the messaging from the Colton Power Plant, continuity of operations with staffing incident command structure, 24-7 POCs, first responder and critical infrastructure, and resorts. Chief Samuels explained that the Multi Agency Coordination Center had to have multiple operators, and the need for deconfliction with policy groups, Las Vegas Metro, mission-specific tasks, lead agencies, and processing and briefings. Chief Samuels also discussed the challenges that would be faced if something of this nature occurred during other large scale visitor events such as Formula One, Superbowl and EDC. The Chief indicated the transportation component is also on the list of contingencies and noted that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) was notified, and their response was to switch their fleet to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles versus diesel. The Chief added that the Department of Aviation was also notified. Chief Samuels next discussed the potential different ways of getting more fuel into the valley, including the Union Pacific Railroad and bringing in fuel via trucks. The Chief indicated that Union Pacific is a bit challenging due to the lack of tracks. Chief Samuels discussed the joint coordination call with stakeholders from Clark County Leadership, all the incorporated cities, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), all fire departments, and DEM/HS. Chief Samuels informed the Commission that the issue resulted not from the fires in southern California, but from the weather and from Public Safety Outage Management (PSOMs) where power companies will shut down systems or grids for weather that is too dry, winds that are too high, or lack of ground moisture so as to reduce wildfire risk. Chief Samuels discussed the series of calls made, with the first being to law enforcement, fire departments, and ambulance companies to fill up their units; the second notification to hospitals, public works, and utility companies; and the third being the holding message described by Chief Compston. Chief Samuels discussed the challenge of messaging. He then explained CALNEV, which is fuel originating in California and terminating in Nevada, noting that for every one day that it is shut down, approximately five days are required for Nevada to replenish supply to its normal operating levels. The Chief indicated that there is another line coming into the Clark County Valley from the Utah-Nevada line but noted that this line produces only about 10 to 15 percent of the fuel in the valley and takes up to 24-36 hours to increase that supply coming through. Chief Samuels indicated that there should not be an expectation of truckers bringing in fuel from Arizona, noting that about 50 percent of Phoenix

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fuel comes from that Colton Facility as well. Chief Samuels informed the Commission that this is an issue that will be studied further and hopefully addressed. Chief Samuels indicated the need for a regional fuel disruption plan and mitigation and noted that a contractor will be coming in to determine what the actual daily-use value for normal operations is. The Chief further noted that he has been working with DEM/HS on using potential grant fundings from HSGP or BRIC to address these issues. Chief Samuels indicated the need to work with the Nevada Trucks Association, as well as with the Department of Aviation (DOA) for both trucks and airlines to come in heavy to increase their fuel so as not to take from their current reserves. The Chief further noted that Nevada needs to increase its current storage and indicated that some of the incorporated cities do not have their own fuel yards, so this is an issue that those incorporated cities need to address as well. The Chief concluded by asking the governor who makes the final determination and declarations regarding who gets what, and then who enforces the determination and declarations.

Governor Lombardo asked for further clarification regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) and local jurisdictions.

Chief Samuels discussed priority lanes, meaning who gets first right of fuel, and noted that determinations need to be made at some point as to whether direction would relate to the county fuel plan or if it would come from the Governor's Office.

Governor Lombardo directed Chief Compston to move forward in identifying priorities. The Governor questioned if under the Union Pacific (UP), tracks at the fuel farm are a requirement of a build out.

Chief Samuels explained that when the Pacific Railroad is going to drop off fuel, they don't have the tracks in place to handle as much fuel as the state will be asking for. Chief Samuels indicated that they do have facilities in place, but that these are not normal tracks such as those where Kinder Morgan terminates, or where UNEV originates or terminates. Chief Samuels indicated that as such, UP would be one of the last options as opposed to increasing the supply of truckers coming through, likely from the Utah side.

Governor Lombardo asked about the authority of the contractor coming in to evaluate storage deficiencies.

Chief Samuels clarified the need for a contractor to come in and provide information on a regional approach regarding how much fuel there is, how long it will last, and daily consumptions. The Chief noted that Clark County does know exactly how much is used on a normal day of operation and indicated that it does not always come from a field yard, but sometimes from the private sector. Chief Samuels added that the contractor will be tasked with determining if everyone has everything they need to operate on a daily basis, as well as to help in identifying the needs for longer duration plans.

Governor Lombardo described his conversations with Chevron referencing increasing storage capacity out at the fuel farm off of Losee or the Air Force Base and noted that this could likely be one of the solutions outside of the increase of capacity of the pipeline. The Governor noted that he would like the contractor to explore this option, as well. The Governor

requested a communications plan with the Truckers Association be put in place so as not to have to repeat this exercise each time there's an emergency.

Chief Compston noted that he would be handling this request.

6. REPORT ON AVIAN INFLUENZA A VIRUS (H5N1) IN Nevada

J.J. Goicoechea informed the Commission that on 12/3/2024, the first quarantine occurred in Nye County for H5N1 in dairy cows. Director Goicoechea indicated that 25,000 head were quarantined and remain quarantined as of the time of this meeting due to bulk tank samples of milk still testing positive. As such, Director Goicoechea indicated that testing has been suspended for an additional two weeks, noting that the requirement is for three consecutive weeks of clean tests before lifting quarantine. Director Goicoechea explained that the strain in question is called B313 and has been circulating in dairy cows across the country since the previous winter, when it originated in Texas and Kansas. Director Goicoechea informed the Commission of a wastewater detection in Washoe County in the beginning of January of H5N1, in Quail Hollow as well as Reno, which were fed by 12 individual dairies, two of which tested positive, and three of which were presumed positive. Director Goicoechea indicated the importance of this due to the discovery of a new variant of H5N1 called B11, which since August of 2024 has spread to all flyways in the US but has stayed in birds up until the recent detection in Churchill County. Director Goicoechea discussed the call with the National Association of State Animal Health officials and the USDA, indicated that all state veterinary partners have been notified, and indicated the plan for a technical brief by the end of the week at the national level. Director Goicoechea explained that there is some genetic sequencing leading to the belief that this strain may be more virulent across all mammals, including humans and noted that to date, there are five reported patients in Fallon, two of whom are refusing treatment and testing due to citizenship concerns. Director Goicoechea indicated that one of the other three did agree to testing, and that the sample has been sent to the state lab at the University of Nevada. Director Goicoechea explained that going forward, needs are going to include increased PPE for dairy producers, and funding from the USDA for dairy producers to buy their own, predominantly gloves and eyewear as this appears to be the route of infection of this virus. Director Goicoechea added that increased surveillance will also be necessary and indicated that work is currently taking place with USDA and APHIS Wildlife Services on this. Director Goicoechea discussed the protocols that will not allow attendance on an infected premise for sampling, and the Director noted the hope of a waiver from the USDA regarding this issue. Director Goicoechea next discussed the continued efforts on abatement of European starlings, noting that counts are being done on how many of these starlings are in the dairies in the Yerington and Fallon areas. Director Goicoechea concluded by noting that the intent is to try to limit the amount of milk loss that these individuals are experiencing, as well as to limit a vector of potential disease spread.

Governor Lombardo requested a public notice to make people aware that immigration would not be involved in any medical response.

Director Goicoechea indicated that Central Nevada Health District has jurisdiction over this and noted that this messaging has been pushed out through them to farmers. Director Goicoechea indicated that there is one premise refusing to comply in providing a list of

employees and phone numbers, and that work is in progress to bridge the gap between the health district and operator and alleviating their concerns. Director Goicoechea reiterated that there is a very low risk to humans and the food supply is safe, but messaging will continue and noted that they are waiting for the USDA technical brief to come out before putting out any other messaging.

Governor Lombardo asked if the Department of Wildlife (NDOW) notice is being handled through Director Jenne.

Director Goicoechea indicated that Director Jenne, NDOW, is being kept in the loop.

Governor Lombardo thanked Director Goicoechea and requested assistance in pushing through the legislation on the free range notice issue.

7. REPORT ON NEVADA FIRE SUPPRESSION SUPPORT TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Kacey KC, State Forester Fire Warden for the Nevada Division of Forestry, indicated that support was sent to the southern California fires through multiple agreements. Ms. KC informed the Commission that the Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs sent two strike teams and one task force of engines through a direct agreement with the Lake Tahoe Fire Chiefs and Cal OES. Ms. KC explained that a strike team is all like type engines, and a task force is a conglomerate of multiple different kinds of engines. Ms. KC indicated that DEM and the Division of Forestry worked together and ended up using the Division of Forestry's direct state agreement with Cal Fire. Ms. KC noted that the Division of Forestry sent three strike teams of local government engines and one task force, and indicated that in total, there were approximately 40 engines and water tenders and about 200 staff. Ms. KC clarified that when sending support, home base is always looked at first to ensure that it is covered. Ms. KC indicated that one of the lessons learned is that Division of Forestry needs to work with the local government fire chiefs to ensure that they are included in the ordering system, that their qualifications have been cross-walked, and that they are in Inter-Agency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC) because when deployed for a wildland fire, California checks all of those things to ensure that the right hoses and nozzles and equipment are in place to fight wildland fires. Ms. KC concluded by informing the Commission that when California orders, they always order engines in strike teams or task forces because that is how they mobilize and utilize equipment.

Governor Lombardo asked about the resources provided by the National Guard.

Colonel Kyle Cerfoglio indicated that two Multi Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) airplanes were provided for the fire, noting that they did not fly a lot, but each flew two sorties with about 6,000 gallons dropped each. The Colonel explained that they were there for about two weeks.

Governor Lombardo questioned the reason for only doing two sorties.

Colonel Cerfoglio explained that they brought eight of the nine MAFFS, and the California ones flew first. The Colonel further indicated that all civilian aircraft needs to fly and be out before the MAFFS can be deployed. The Colonel noted that he is not aware of the exact reason but indicated that wind could have been a factor. The Colonel added that basically everyone except California flew to about two sorties.

Governor Lombardo asked the Colonel to speak to the level of frustration on the delayed response of the National Guard and the lack of understanding in how to reconfigure that aircraft.

Colonel Cerfoglio noted that the aircraft need to be completely reconfigured to get them ready for MAFFS and added that they have never been activated in the winter. The Colonel opened that the whole MAFFS probably needs to re-look at how things are done following this last fire.

Governor Lombardo informed the Commission that these aircraft have a completely different mission than fire suppression, and that is the reason why reconfiguration takes time.

Kasey KC explained that Nevada MAFFS go through the National Ordering System so they cannot go through the state-to-state agreement with California. As such, putting MAFFS under the state-to-state agreement is something that is being considered and looked at. Ms. KC discussed the delays caused by the system as it works now, noting that this potential addition of the MAFFS to the state-to-state agreement will likely help mobilize them faster.

8. REPORT ON THE JANUARY 1, 2025, EXPLOSION AT TRUMP TOWER IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Cary Underwood, Executive Director Southern Nevada County Terrorism Center, discussed the explosion of the vehicle on 1/1/25 in Las Vegas, focusing primarily on the lessons learned. Mr. Underwood indicated that the explosion occurred 17 seconds after the vehicle stopped in the valet period, and that Clark County Fire Department was able to extinguish the fire. Mr. Underwood explained that guests were accommodated at Resorts World, so infrastructure partners helped. Mr. Underwood indicated that the post-blast investigation occurred almost immediately once the fire department determined that it was safe because everyone on scene working together discovered that the vehicle driver was actually the suspect, who died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. Mr. Underwood indicated that seven persons reported minor injuries and were treated and released. Mr. Underwood further indicated that there was minimal structural damage to nearby structures, including the hotel. Mr. Underwood discussed the background of the suspect before focusing on the lessons learned. Mr. Underwood indicated the collaboration efforts over the years between the SNCTC and the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force were instrumental in conducting investigative efforts in Nevada and other states, as well as to provide verified information comparing investigation results with the New Orleans investigation, results that ultimately showed no identified link. Mr. Underwood explained that leveraging the FBI Infusion Center networks was critical in the investigation, as information was able to be obtained from state, local, and federal partners in New Mexico, Colorado, and Arizona very quickly, along with obtaining the defense department records that normally took a longer period of time to get.

Mr. Underwood discussed the critical partnerships with the fire department, as well as the transparency process with providing details to the public, noting that only confirmed information was provided to the public to help control the narrative. Mr. Underwood noted that the national media has highlighted the comparison between the Las Vegas and New Orleans incidents and found that Las Vegas was handled much better. Mr. Underwood discussed the importance of having ATF experts come in to provide significant and clear explanations on complicated topics as to what happened and why it happened the way it did. Mr. Underwood noted that the ability to explain these things in layman's terms to people who are not explosives experts is very, very important. Mr. Underwood did indicate the need to engage the industry experts faster, noting that this is something that could be improved. Mr. Underwood also indicated that the cameras around the city provided evidence value and again reiterated the importance of all the partnerships. Mr. Underwood discussed the need to look into how future challenges will be accommodated in the future. Mr. Underwood noted that there were a few recovery challenges in this incident, particularly with the moving of the remnants of the vehicle and hosing down of the situation, but Mr. Underwood conceded that this would have required keeping the scene static, noting that this creates the need for a delicate balance. Mr. Underwood discussed the complications that arise when subjects involved are highly cleared personnel as this could potentially result in a law enforcement CGIS system containing sensitive national security information. As such, Mr. Underwood noted that these are conversations taking place with the federal partners and DOD. Mr. Underwood discussed the importance of video recovery from an evidence recovery standpoint, noting the critical need for every piece of video available, even if it is redundant. Mr. Underwood next discussed the need to provide public education for law enforcement regarding Turo, noting that Turo rentals, privately owned vehicles rented through an online application, is a new concept for many people, but continues to gain popularity. Mr. Underwood next discussed the importance of mental-health issues leading to mobilization for violence and informed the Commission of the suspect's research methodology leading up to the incident. Mr. Underwood concluded by noting that another area needing to be addressed is the problem of extinguishing EV vehicle fires.

Governor Lombardo asked if the presentation made by Mr. Underwood was a FOUO presentation.

Cary Underwood noted that it was, and that all law enforcement sensitive items were kept out of the presentation.

Governor Lombardo requested that, nonetheless, the sensitive information provided in today's presentation remain sequestered by the members of the panel.

Chief Samuels commended the collaboration among all entities in the Valley in the response of this incident and noted the good fortune that the batteries were not the source of ignition as this could have presented different problems during this incident.

Governor Lombardo asked if the fire community is actively providing information on the best way to address lithium fires.

Billy Samuels indicated that it is but cautioned that the methodology is going to be dependent on the situation and the plume models and exposures until research and design determines

the best foam to mitigate those efforts. Chief Samuels did indicate that water is not going to resolve the problem and noted that lithium fires are very challenging. Chief Samuels informed the Commission that all fire departments in the valley have been holding lithium symposiums and have been involving Northern Nevada partners, as well.

Governor Lombardo tasked Chief Samuels with reaching out to Redwood Materials in northern Nevada as they are the expert on lithium mitigation and have a chemical compound considered best practice when addressing these fires and then adding this information into the training and awareness of all the fire suppression folks in the state of Nevada. The Governor further noted that first responders across the board need to be made aware of all of these issues, along with law enforcement, medical, and others, so everyone knows how to best address the approach distances along with anything else relevant. The Governor tasked Brett Compston on coordinating this effort with Chief Samuels.

Kevin McMahonill noted that one of the challenges in the incident had been people believing the electric battery was burning and noted that those batteries give off a very toxic gas. Chief McMahonill discussed the fact that police officers have not yet been trained in regards to that particular gas and requested that the work Chiefs Samuels and Compston undertake include not only the suppression perspective, but education on the fumes for first responders that arrive on-scene.

Billy Samuels indicated that a one-pager would be created for all responders, law enforcement, ambulance, and fire. Chief Samuels indicated that air monitoring was taking place that day and can certainly take place at future incidents.

Kevin McMahonill requested that Cary Underwood also work with Brett Compston on this effort so as to get the information out through the Fusion Center network.

Cary Underwood indicated that he will get in touch with the NTAC director and the Clark County Fire Department captain assigned to the center and have them work with the analytical team to put something together.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Governor Joe Lombardo opened the second period of public comment for discussion.

Governor Lombardo indicated that this meeting was the first one in a very long time of Homeland Security Commission meetings that was very informational and expressed his appreciation for everybody's efforts and emergency responses. The Governor noted that communication has changed significantly and commended the efforts moving forward as an emergency management community.

There was no additional public comment.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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Patty Wade made a motion to adjourn. Governor Joe Lombardo seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

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